

ADULT FALL SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL

BY-LAWS

1. The current American Amateur Softball Association Official Guide of Rectified Fast and Slow Pitch Rules shall govern play unless otherwise noted.
2. A player must be at least 16 years of age to be eligible to participate in the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Fall Adult Slow Pitch Softball Program. Players under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign the player registration card as well.
3. The player roster is unlimited.
4. It is recommended that pregnant players consult their physician before participating. The Delta Township Parks and Recreation Department recommends that pregnant players do not play in a game for their own safety.
5. **FORFEIT TIME IS GAME TIME.** A team may start or finish a game with six (6) registered players. A team must have six (6) players to begin batting or to take the field. A team with less than six (6) players shall forfeit. If players 7, 8, 9, and 10 arrive for a team starting with six (6) players, he/she **MUST** bat in the next available spot in the batting order.
6. **THE EXTRA PLAYER** may be utilized as per book rule with the following modification. A team must maintain a minimum of six (6) players throughout the game. Failure to complete the game with six (6) players¹ is forfeiture of the game. As by rule, a team must have a minimum of eleven (11) players present to start the game with an extra player. This rule may only be utilized if you start the game with eleven (11) players. A team cannot add an eleventh batting position to their line-up once the game has begun.
7. If a player is removed from the batting order for any reason, and the batting position is unable to be filled by a legal substitute, the vacant batting position shall be an automatic out each time that batting position is scheduled to bat.
8. If a player is removed from a base or the plate for any reason (injury, ejection, etc.), and is unable to be replaced by a legal substitute, an immediate out will be declared in all cases.
9. Line-up cards, for listing a team's official batting order, will be provided by this department and should be used for all league games. All line-up cards must have **first and last names of all players participating**.
10. Infield practice will not be allowed.
11. Each starting pitcher or relief pitcher will receive one (1) minute to throw not more than three (3) warm-up pitches before facing the first batter and may throw not more than one (1) warm-up pitch in subsequent innings.
12. All games will be played under the 3-2 count system (i.e. each batter will come to bat with a one ball and one strike count on them). **No grace foul ball.**
13. **ALL GAMES WILL HAVE A TIME LIMIT OF ONE (1) HOUR.** No new inning shall start **ONE (1) HOUR** after the game's pre-game conference between the managers and umpires. Games called due to time shall constitute a complete game regardless of the number of innings played. Extra innings may be played only if they fit within the one (1) hour time limit.
14. A team leading by 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings and 10 after 5 innings of play shall be declared the winner and that game is considered complete.
15. **REGULATION GAME** - For this department's Fall Adult Softball Program, 3½ to 4 innings shall constitute a complete game in the event of rain, darkness, etc.
16. Home team will be listed first on the schedules and shall be responsible for keeping score. Both the home team and visiting team manager are responsible for verifying the final score and must sign the scorecard turned in by the umpires.
17. **INCLEMENT WEATHER** - Any decision made by this department concerning rain outs will be made at 4:30 p.m. (323-8555). At that time a recording will give the status of the games. The decision will either be:
 - (1) The games will be played as scheduled,
 - (2) The games have been postponed, *or*
 - (3) The decision will be left up to the umpire(s).

If the decision is left up to the umpire(s), the teams should report to the field. If one game is canceled on a diamond, then all subsequent games on that diamond are canceled for the night. If it rains during the game, the umpire(s) shall suspend play for a minimum of fifteen minutes before deciding if the field is playable. 3-1/2 to 4 innings shall constitute a complete game.
18. **All rained out games will be rescheduled on the following Sunday (except Thursday leagues which will be rescheduled two Sundays from the rainout). Any rained out games that are not able to be made up during the regular season will be made up on a Sunday designated by the league director².**
19. Regular league games that are stopped (due to rain, darkness, etc.) before enough innings have been completed for the game to be considered regulation or regulation tie games (that are not considered complete as per these softball by-laws) shall be rescheduled and played from the beginning. During this department's post season tournaments, all regulation tie games or games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped, as per book rule.

20. **PROTESTS** must be filed in writing with the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Department office by 5 p.m. the next business day and must be accompanied by a \$20 protest fee. It is the protesting team's responsibility to cite the rule(s) violated. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. All protests must be made in accordance with the current A.S.A. Rule Book. The Director and Recreation Supervisor shall act upon all protests.
21. If there is a tie at the end of the season for first place, a single game play off will be held to determine the league champion. The single play off game will be played on the next available league day. If more than two teams are tied, first round opponents will be determined by draw. If there is a tie for second place, head to head competition will determine which team receives the runner-up trophy. If the teams split in head to head competition, the least number of runs allowed in head to head competition will be the determining factor. The least number of runs allowed for the season would be used next or finally a coin flip if necessary.
22. **MOVE UP RULE** - Any team that wins the same league two consecutive years will be subject to review by the Parks and Recreation Department and may be moved into a higher caliber league, which may play on a different night.
23. There shall be no smoking on the playing field.
24. **GROUND RULES** for all diamonds will be as per book rule along with the following:
- (1) Any batted ball that becomes lodged in the fence will be ruled a ground rule double providing the fielder does not make any attempt to play the ball. The fielder should immediately raise both hands to signal to the umpire(s) that the ball has become unplayable. When play has ceased the umpire(s) will check the ball to verify its status and the batter and all baserunners will be awarded two bases (Ground Rule Double). However, all baserunners and the batter-baserunner will be allowed all the bases they got on the play should the ball be ruled as playable by the umpire(s). Any thrown ball that becomes lodged in the fence should be handled in the same manner by the fielder, after which the umpire will make the appropriate base awards as per book rule.
- (2) Any fly ball that comes in contact with a limb of a tree that is behind the outfield fence shall be ruled a home run.
25. **HOME RUN RULE** - No team shall be allowed to be more than two (2) over the fence unassisted home runs ahead of the other team. Example: If the visiting team hits two (2) home runs in the top of the first inning they may not hit another home run until the home team has hit at least one (1). The penalty for violation of this rule will be an out.
27. **Courtesy Runner (CR)** – Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. One courtesy runner only may be used per inning. Coed – once per inning for a female (female CR) and once per inning for a male (male CR).
28. **UMPIRE PAYMENT SYSTEM**

Two-Man Umpire System - \$36 - Men - Each team will be required to pay \$18 per game.

One-Man Umpire System - \$26 - Coed - Each team will be required to pay \$13 per game.

Men's leagues will be scheduled with the two-man system but if the one umpire system is used the teams will pay the rate of the one-man system.

ALL PAYMENTS TO UMPIRES ARE TO BE MADE IN CASH ONLY. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE COME TO THE BALL FIELD PREPARED TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE FEE.

TEAM FORFEITS – The team that receives the forfeit is not responsible to pay the umpires any fee. The team that forfeits will be responsible for the payment of the umpires through the use of their forfeit fee included in the team sponsor fee. The forfeit fee for men's and women's doubleheaders is \$80 and coed doubleheader is \$65. Should your team forfeit any time throughout the season your team will be required to resubmit the portion of the forfeit fee that you used by noon the day your league plays. For example: If a men's team that plays in a Tuesday night doubleheader league forfeits both games they will be required to re-pay the \$80 forfeit fee by noon the following Tuesday. Umpires are to take no money from either team if a forfeit occurs, the department office will pay the umpires through the use of the team forfeit fee.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – If softball games are canceled due to inclement weather by the Parks and Recreation Office through the rainout information phone number there will be no payment made to umpires. If the games are called at the fields by the umpires before any games start the umpires will be paid by the Parks and Recreation Department, teams are not to pay the umpires under this situation. If the games are started and then canceled due to weather conditions the teams are to pay the umpires the appropriate fee.

If your team has a game canceled at the field due to weather conditions after the game has started and the umpire(s) have been paid, your game will be rescheduled. When the rescheduled game is played, teams will not be responsible for payment of the umpires. The Parks and Recreation office will pay the umpires.